



ATTORNEY DOCKET: 2002832-0002

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Sosin  
Serial No.: 09/248,515  
Filing Date: February 8, 1999  
Title: GOLF CLUB AND METHOD OF DESIGN

Examiner: Blau, S.  
Art Unit: 3711

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RECEIVED**  
MAR 09 2004  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Sir:

**DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.132**

I, J. Rodney Loesch, declare as follows:

1. I am the Director of Golf at the Connecticut Golf Club, a position I have held for 19 years, and for the last three years I have been the President of the Metropolitan PGA. I am well familiar with the variety and design of golf clubs, in particular irons and wedges, that are made and used by amateurs and professionals alike.
2. I have reviewed and am familiar with the specification of United States Patent Application No. 09/248,515 (the '515 application) for "Golf Club and Method of Design" by Mr. Howard Sosin. I understand that Mr. Sosin has submitted claims in this patent application that relate to a an iron with a single straight shaft connected to the head so that, when the head rests on its sole at its design loft, the shaft forms a non-zero lean angle with the vertical. I understand that this non-zero lean angle is preferably within the range of 3-10°.
3. I understand that the Patent Examiner who is evaluating the '515 application has said that some of the claims to the golf club invented by Mr. Sosin are not patentable because the invention that they define is the same as what is depicted in Fig. 2 of United States Patent No. 3,961,796 to Thompson ("Thompson"). I have reviewed and understood Thompson, and I disagree with the Examiner's assertion.
4. I have never seen an iron or wedge with a non-zero lean angle. Prior to my conversations

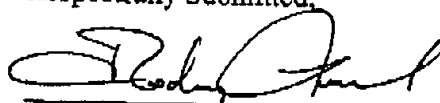
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with Mr. Sosin, I had never heard of nor considered a wedge with a non-zero lean angle.

5. Thompson describes an otherwise standard wedge with the special feature of a downwardly tapered keel. I do not view Fig. 2 of Thompson as depicting a wedge with a non-zero lean angle. Rather, Fig. 2 of Thompson highlights certain features of the club head such as the plug material 23, and front face edge portion 14a. The shaft 30 is only represented as a dashed line. Particularly given that the concept of a lean angle is so unusual, I would expect a picture intended to illustrate a lean angle to discuss it extensively; Thompson makes no mention of the shaft/hosel/head connection angle. I would therefore expect that, consistent with standard practice, Thompson intended no lean angle. I appreciate that the Figure itself could be construed to depict a lean angle, but I understand this to reflect an imprecise rendition of a three-dimensional object in two dimensions rather than an intended deviation from the norm.
5. I, J. Rodney Loesch, declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that these statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful, false statements and the like are made punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under §1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful, false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patents that may issue thereon.

Respectfully Submitted,



Name: J. Rodney Loesch

Title: *DIRECTOR OF GOLF*

Date: *02/17/2004*